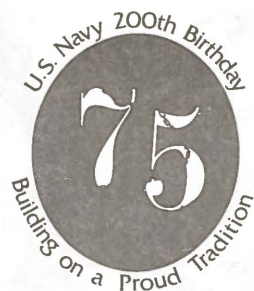


NAVAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER MEMPHIS....VOLUME 9 NO. 6....OCTOBER 13, 1975  
 -----SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL EDITION-----



A MESSAGE FROM THE  
 COMMANDING OFFICER...



In this special edition of The Clipper, we honor the proud heritage of the Navy and the contributions of our predecessors to the establishment and protection of this great nation. It is not difficult to find many stories of heroics in battle, and of daring deeds against hostile foes. Of these actions we are extremely proud, but we must remember that the Navy also serves in times of peace and many significant contributions to our society have been made not in combat but in day-to-day operations in training, research, and development. In the fields of communication, transportation, electronics, and physical sciences, military technology has led to many of the products and systems we now take for granted. More recently our increased awareness of the social sciences and individual values have set the pace for others in the management of human resources. Military medicine, in war and peace, has led in the development of new procedures to save lives and improve the environment. From Dr. Joseph Harrison, the first Navy physician appointed in 1775, to the present combination of officers, enlisted personnel and civilians who form the Navy Medical Department, we have been second to none in professionalism and devotion to duty. Despite the feelings generated by Viet Nam, the services continue to enjoy a high rating with U.S. citizenry. The Navy is truly an organization of proud tradition, prominent future, and prideful profession.

The first structure to be located here was built on 900 acres of land. The groundbreaking ceremony was held in August of 1942 and the commissioning was 17 March 1943. The hospital was built to provide care and support of the casualties of WWII, but the necessity was so great that on the day of commissioning the hospital was already caring for 350 patients.

The first medical staff was composed of 21 medical officers, 8 hospital corps officers, 1 supply officer, 5 nurses, and 123 corpsmen. It was typical of the times that the first surgery performed was an emergency appendectomy, done 6 days before the hospital was officially opened.

During the war years, casualties from the battle zones were incoming at such a rate that the average patient load at the end of 1945 was 1337. In order to maintain the health of the dependant population, hospital officials, through the courtesy of Memphis Mayor Walter Chandler (father of the present mayor) established a dependant care clinic on Exchange Street in downtown Memphis. In a three year period beginning in 1944 the clinic saw 58,394 patients.

The original building of the hospital had a bed capacity of 727 with an expanded capacity of 1,419. Due to a shortage of pine wood at the time of construction, the old hospital is composed almost entirely of oak. Although built of strong

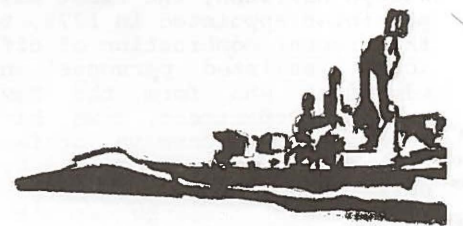
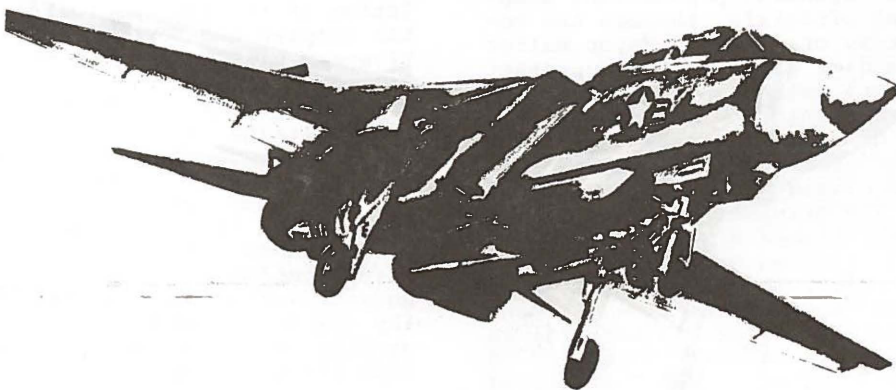
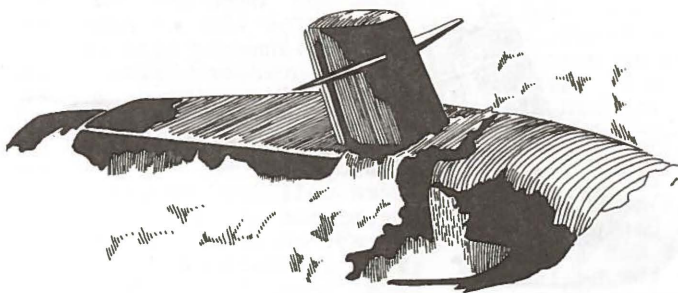
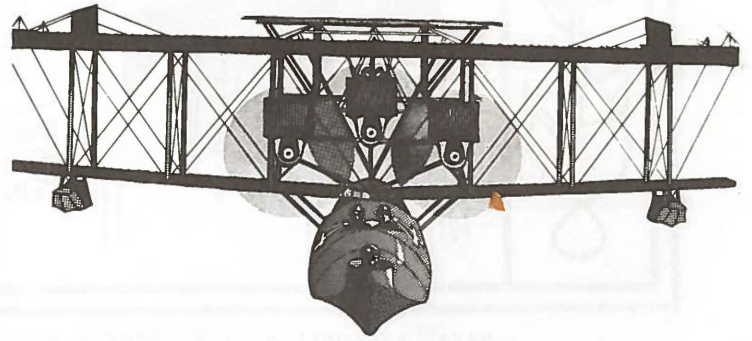
timber the old hospital did not meet modern construction standards and with the help of Tennessee Congressmen funds were appropriated for the construction of a new building at the cost of \$6.5 million. A decline in the patient load over the postwar years resulted in a fixed bed capacity of 230 as compared to the 727 for the earlier structure.

Though the old structure has not been used as a care facility since 1972 it still carries memories to the Navy Memphis oldtimers. This was the first hospital in the mid-South to make use of a hemodialysis machine. It had many distinguished visitors to its patients such as athletic legendary Jim Thorpe. For many years it was the first stop for both the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus as well as the Shriner's Circus. Many motion picture stars of the day visited the disabled veterans of WWII. The list of memories and accomplishments goes on.

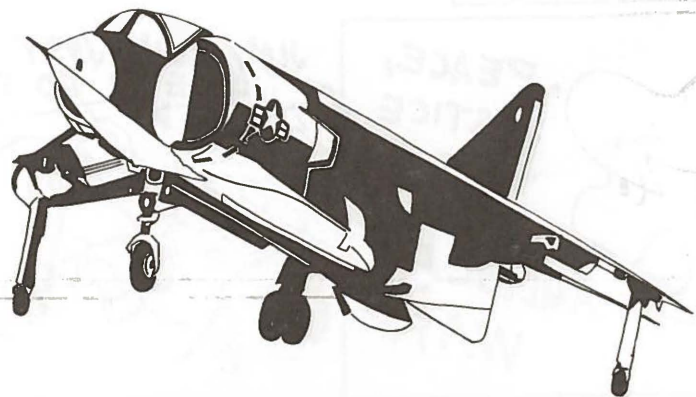
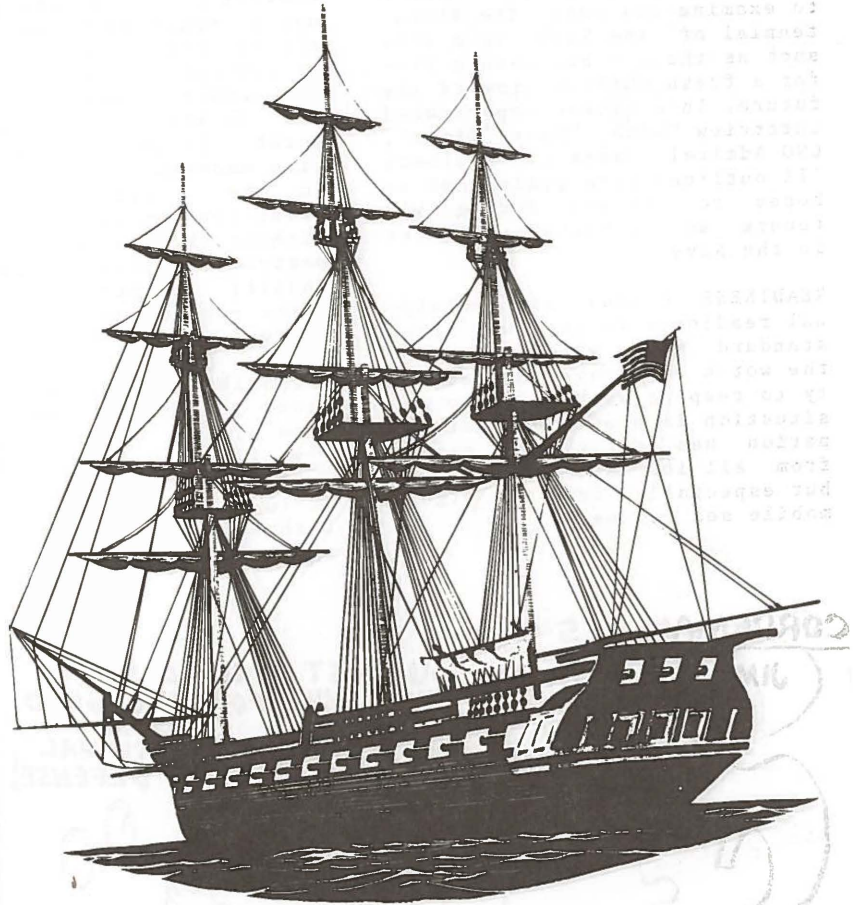
The present Naval Hospital is the first in a series of buildings erected in order to improve the quality and efficiency of the Navy's health care delivery system. It incorporates as many of the most recent advances in architectural innovations as possible. And, hopefully, with the completion of the new medical/dental complex the overall effectiveness will be even more enhanced.

The history of NH Memphis has been long and varied, and will continue to be that way into the future. However, the name will no longer be Naval Hospital. As of October 1st, 1975 records will indicate the redesignation to Naval Regional Medical Center Memphis. Despite the change, traditions of high quality care, enthusiasm, and dedication will go on.











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#### LOOKING AHEAD FOR THE NAVY

At every anniversary, a look backwards is invited, a chance to examine the past. The Bicentennial of the Navy is a time such as that, but also a time for a fresh outlook toward the future. In a recent copyrighted interview with "Navy Times", CNO Admiral James L. Holloway III outlined five goals that he hopes to achieve during his tenure as the highest officer in the Navy.

**READINESS:** Overall and individual readiness is the only true standard with which to judge the worth of a navy. The ability to respond with speed to any situation is something that the nation has a right to expect from all its armed services, but especially from its highly mobile sea forces.

**FLEXIBILITY:** No assembly of men can be effective without the flexibility to do the jobs they may be required to perform. Of all the armed forces, the Navy is perhaps the most flexible, and cannot afford to become rigid in its operational viewpoint. In today's world, precise amounts of power may need to be applied at any point for any number of reasons without the support of a third party. Flexibility implies an ability to perform whatever tasks are assigned, and do them correctly.

**OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY:** In addition to being a necessity in time of war, offensive capability also serves as a deterrent during peacetime to those who would otherwise infringe on the rights of American citizens and

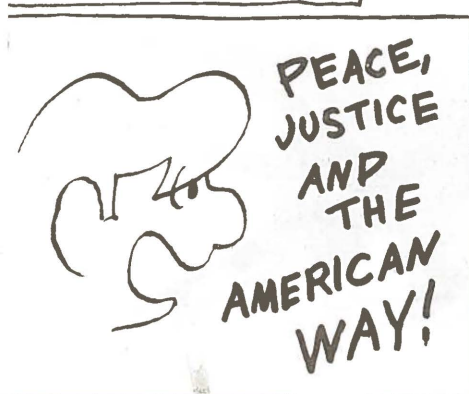
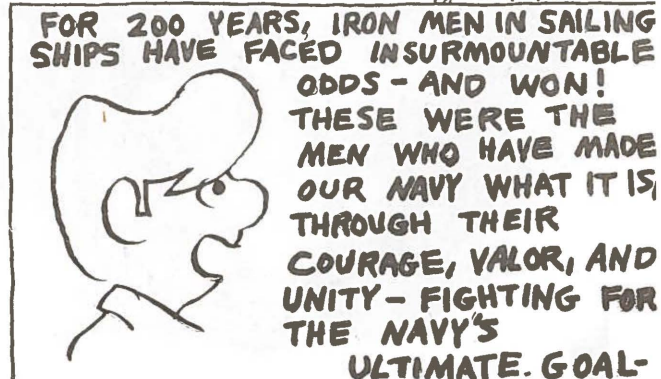
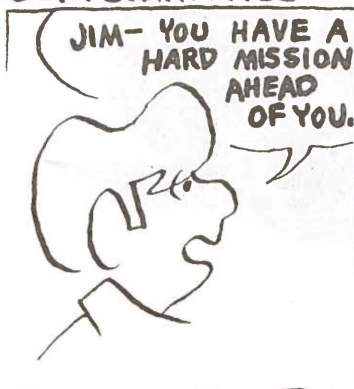
their interests. It is obvious that any organization established for the defense of a country should possess an offensive capability sufficient to insure a reasonable chance of success for its country in time of necessity.

**BALANCE:** A well-rounded force has the advantage over a force that concentrates its efforts in one area. Efforts to maintain and improve efficiency and effectiveness in all areas are of prime importance to the survival of the Navy as an effective military unit.

**PERSONAL PROFESSIONALISM AND STABILITY:** At the heart of every operational system and technological component of the Navy are the people who operate the equipment. In order to maintain a high standard of efficiency, all hands must have pride in their jobs and in themselves. This of course is a two way effort on the part of all commands and the components thereof.

As can be seen from the above goals, the Navy's third century cannot help but be better and more exciting than the previous two combined.

#### CORPSMANIACS



BY RYCK RORIE